

DISTRICT V ADVISORY BOARD

Minutes

www.wichita.gov

**August 2, 2004
7:00 p.m.**

**Auburn Hills Golf Course Clubhouse
443 S. 135th West**

The District V Advisory Board meeting included attendance by nine District Advisory Board Members. However, one newly appointed member had not yet been sworn in to office and was therefore, unable to vote. Seven City Staff attended. Approximately five members of the public were present.

Members Present

David Almes
Bob Bulman
David Dennis
Maurice Ediger
Andy Johnson
John Marker
Monica Vashan
Ann Welborn
Steve Winslow
Council Member Bob Martz

Members Absent

Sean Cash
DeAnn Sullivan

Staff Present

Addie Perkins, Police
Michelle Schell, Police
David Wertz, Police
Delana Maris, Police
Kurt Schroeder, Central Inspection
Paul Gunzelman, Public Works
Dana Brown, City Manager's Office

Guests

Kent Spor, 558 N. Redbarn, 67212
Judith Spor, 558 N. Redbarn, 67212
Sharry Clare, 557 N. Redbarn, 67212
Clete Dold, 2185 Breezy Pt. Cr., 67235
Kay Goodknight, 230 Mesa, 67212

ORDER OF BUSINESS

Call to Order

Bob Martz, City Council Member, called the meeting to order at 7:12.

Approval of Minutes and Agenda

The minutes for July 12, 2004 were approved as amended by a unanimous vote of 8:0
(Johnson/Bulman). The agenda for the August 2, 2004 meeting was approved as presented.

Staff Reports

Community Police Report

Community Police Officer Addie Perkins, Beat 199, reported for Community Police Officers who serve District V. Beat 199 covers the area from 13th Street north to city limits and Hoover Road west to city limits. Perkins said that decreases had occurred in garage theft and auto larceny, which she attributed mainly to increased patrol and a public awareness campaign with Target, Wal-Mart, and Warren Theater. **Council Member Martz** read a portion of an e-mail received from Captain Terry Nelson, West Patrol Commander, stating that 37 arrests related to these types of crimes had been made in the last 30 days. Council Member Martz thanked the

officers for their efforts to address the concerns and asked that the other officers involved in the arrests be thanked for him also.

Almes noted that he had seen fewer motorized scooters in their neighborhood since the previous report on their legal use. He said information had been included in their homeowner association newsletter, which he thought had helped. **Johnson** commented that the equipment appears to be legal and advertisements seem to add to that perception. **Ediger** said this was a problem nationwide as he had just returned from Los Angeles where they were advertised heavily.

Action: Receive and file

New Business

Reintegration Task Force Report

Margie Phelps, Kansas Department of Corrections, and Kurt Schroeder, Office of Central Inspection, presented information on a proposed pilot project being developed to address the critical needs of offender re-entry (employment, housing, public safety, and support services). **Phelps** identified many of the issues associated with the reintegration of offenders returning to Sedgwick County. The City Council referred this item to the District Advisory Boards for comment and recommendation.

Phelps referred to a handout of a Power Point Presentation to give the background on the City/County Offender Reentry Task Force that grew out of a Wichita Assembly held in February 2002. The recommendations were to improve services involving community safety, housing, employment, and support services for offenders leaving prison to rejoin the community. Phelps reported that approximately 1,850 return to Sedgwick County each year and approximately 76% of those have committed crimes in either Sedgwick or Butler Counties while the remainder committed crimes in other counties.

Phelps said the Task Force accomplished the tasks of reviewing recommendations of the Assembly; collecting additional information; making additional recommendations; identifying steps needed to implement a plan; and reviewing the role of the Alternative Correctional Housing Board (ACHB). **Schroeder** explained that the ACHB was formed about 6 years ago and had established guidelines for “halfway houses” because no regulations existed, the neighborhoods had no voice, and present conditions for housing were unsafe. The Board’s work resulted in broad licensing and oversight.

Phelps reported that the Task Force worked in subcommittees in the four key areas identified previously. They held focus groups, gave surveys, reviewed “best practices,” consulted experts, and reviewed existing practices in detail. Their recommendations included:

1. Establish standing joint work group;
2. Establish core reentry staff/program to develop model & conduct system change that will be sustained beyond the use of the grant funding;
3. Include community involvement through entire process; and,
4. Coordinate this work with the ACHB.

Council Member Martz asked the Board for any questions. **Winslow** said the major issue always associated with this topic was “not in my back yard (NIMBY).” **Phelps** acknowledged

that was true and said that certain areas were usually targeted due to convenient access to services.

Johnson asked about requirements for all offenders to live in halfway houses, expressed a concern about being approached for money while at a downtown facility; and, asked whether the Task Force supported retention of the ACHB. **Phelps** said some offenders have homes they return to and some are not required to live in housing with oversight. Some do not even have parole officers. She thought the people approaching others for money were probably homeless persons due to the site of the facility being near several homeless shelters in downtown. And she said that the Task Force fully supports retention of the ACHB.

Dennis asked if funding was a part of the recommendations to which Phelps said the report includes a budget that redirects existing resources and a relatively small need exists for new funding but it would definitely be use of taxpayer dollars. **Council Member Martz** said that funding was definitely one of the main issues. **Phelps** added that approximately one-third of the offenders, who are high-risk, are using the current city resources. The intent of the pilot project would be to make these offenders contributing taxpayers to reduce the impact on the resources and give more to the community. Currently, about half of the offenders reach this point.

Johnson asked if two boards would be established but **Phelps** said the thinking was to retain the ACHB and add other members of the service community, such as mental health, health care, housing, safety, etc.

Board Members asked questions about information obtained from other cities such as comparisons in size, number of returning offenders, costs, outcome information provided, etc. **Phelps** provided answers to all questions explaining that performance measures had been used in the other programs, beginning one year pre-release. At the end of the second year, after the offenders had been released for one year, data was available that was more applicable. **Ediger** asked the cost of housing an inmate in prison to which Phelps said \$20,000 provides room & board only—no rehabilitative services.

Dennis said he recommended the project but was concerned about measuring the program effectively. **Bulman** said he agreed that something should be done but he'd like to review several alternatives. He also agreed that the local community needed to do a better job of re-introducing the offenders back into society.

Council Member Martz clarified that the pilot project will focus on the City and the County developing a better program together to address the offender re-entry issues. **Phelps** said that actually 68 sites including Shawnee County were given \$1 million to develop and implement a program that includes an arena of learning for monthly review. The intent of doing in advance is to be better prepared. **Council Member Martz** asked why Shawnee County instead of Sedgwick County to which Phelps said the federal program officers wanted the program to progress in front of the state legislators, and that Shawnee County receives more offenders in their trades with Sedgwick County and Johnson County.

Dennis recommended support of the proposed project but only with outcomes in place and an evaluation component. **Almes** seconded. Discussion included a concern that Police are typically involved in programs such as this one and are often stretched too thin. Phelps stated

that the City Chief of Police and one of the Deputy Chiefs were involved in the Task Force work and in developing recommendations. Motion passed 7-1 (Bulman).

Action: Recommended that City Council support the reentry pilot project

Johnson then moved that the ACHB be retained with the recommended expansion to include other service representatives. No discussion. Bulman seconded. Motion passed 8-0.

Action: Recommended that the Alternative Correctional Housing Board be retained.

Public Agenda

This portion of the agenda provides an opportunity for citizens to present items not shown as part of the regular meeting agenda.

Scheduled items

Kent Spor, 558 N. Redbarn, and Sharry Clare, 557 N. Redbarn, presented concerns about traffic in their neighborhood, which is directly east of Bishop Carroll and south of 13th Street. **Spor** stated that during the school year, the area is challenged with vehicles speeding and driving recklessly on Jennie, Redbarn and Emerson Streets. In addition, trees at the intersections of Emerson and Redbarn obstruct vision for drivers. A 2002 survey of the area revealed that speeding was the top priority for concerns in the neighborhood.

The presenters acknowledged that the traffic light recently installed at Central & Socora had helped by allowing entrance directly onto the school drive. But many students appear to avoid the light by driving past the light and through the neighborhood by turning south from Central onto Redbarn through intersections at Jennie & Emerson. Usually, they drive through at a high rate of speed.

Spor and Clare said their Neighborhood Watch had addressed the concern with Bishop Carroll High School administrators. The issue was then presented to the students but no change had occurred. An associated issue of students congregating in Brownthrush Park before and after school increased the traffic issue as the students traveled through the neighborhood to and from the school or park.

Officer Michelle Schell said she had just received the complaint today but supported the concerns of the residents. She planned to collect statistics related to traffic speed. **Paul Gunzelman, Traffic Engineer,** said he would obtain some traffic counts after school begins as well as check the intersections for sight obstruction and obtain accident numbers. He also said the timing of the traffic light at Central & Socora could be adjusted during the high traffic time periods.

Council Member Martz thanked the residents for presenting their concern and said that this seems to be a common issue in many neighborhoods. He said the typical approach was for staff to research the situation and use the information collected to work with the residents to identify alternatives to address the situation. He did caution the residents, however, that certain criteria must be met to justify erecting Yield and Stop signs.

Action: Receive and file.

Gunzelman also reported on a previous question about the need for streetlights from 17th to 21st along 119th. He said that he had requested Westar to install the lights.

Council Member Martz asked about the plan for a signal light at Central & 119th to which **Gunzelman** said he would check on the funding schedule for it. He said it was in design now and he believed it would be installed prior to the project for widening Central Street from 119th – 135th. Staff is hopeful that the Kansas Department of Transportation (KDOT) will help fund the light as part of the widening project. **Johnson** said he thought the traffic light was already scheduled for installation.

Almes asked when the paving project would begin on 13th between Central & 119th; he reported that the utilities were being laid now along 13th. **Gunzelman** said he would check.

Off-agenda items

Kay Kessler Goodknight, 230 Mesa, spoke to the Board about a possible project with the city to improve the Jamesburg Cemetery at Tyler & 17th Street. She said that her grandfather had donated two acres for the cemetery and the City had taken over maintenance about 15 years ago. She recognized that the City had limited resources to maintain public properties and her family and other family members of individuals buried in the cemetery had a vested interest to improve the area. She had talked with several who were interested in working with the City to improve the cemetery appearance through clean-up days and raising funds. She noted several familiar Wichita names such as Neville, Jaax, & Maas in addition to her family name of Kessler.

Council Member Martz suggested she also contact Rev. Larry Wren at the Westlink Christian Church as his family had recently buried his brother-in-law in that cemetery.

Goodknight said that she had met with Park and Rec staff as well as County Extension staff about the possibilities. The group had identified several needs including:

- Replace the arborvitae trees that surround the interior of the cemetery. Extension staff had reported that the trees had reached the end of their life expectancy.
- Construct a lateral line to water main, or check into the status of the existing water well
- Remove an abandoned building at the back of the property
- Raise several headstones and trim back grass & weeds obstructing the names, etc.
- Address low areas in drive where water and mud collect

Council Member Martz said that he supported the project in whatever the City could do to access resources but cemetery maintenance regulations would need to be consulted to prevent any violations.

Staff agreed to organize a meeting with Park and Rec to initiate research of possibilities for pursuing such a project. Goodknight would then be contacted to meet with staff to develop a plan.

Action: Staff will initiate research for possible project.

Board Agenda

Updates, Issues, and Reports

Bulman reported on issues noted at last month's meeting saying that limited action had occurred to address the sinkhole that needed backfilling and the drainage issues along the northeast side of Northshore Boulevard from sewer construction. He is in contact with city staff to complete the work.

Almes said that the trees recently planted as part of a widening project on 119th from 17th to 21st were dying as well as the ones planted at the Northwest Water Reclamation Facility. He said they didn't appear to be watered regularly. **Council Member Martz** asked staff to contact Public Works and/or Water about the concern.

Winslow asked if any action had occurred regarding adding bicycle racks on to city buses. **Council Member Martz** asked staff to contact Transit.

Council Member Martz reported that the final plat for *SUB2004-73 for the Midian Shrine Addition*, located east of Ridge Road and on the south side of 13th Street North, is scheduled for the Planning Commission on Thursday, August 5. He said that during the Council review of the zoning request, a bike path in the easement had been added to the project. However, Council Member Martz removed the path from the approval, noting concerns for overhead utility lines, residential opposition, crossing 13th to Sedgwick County Park, and, cost involved in constructing a safe passage. He said he wanted DAB Members to be aware of the reasons for the action.

With no other items, the meeting was adjourned at 9:08.

Next Meeting

The next meeting for District Advisory Board V will be scheduled at Auburn Hills Clubhouse at **7:00 p.m. on September 13, 2004** due to the Labor Day Holiday occurring on the regular meeting date of the first Monday of the month.

Respectfully Submitted,

Dana Brown, Neighborhood Assistant
City Council District V